

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 121831

R 261634Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1272

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: ENOCH POWELL RAISES SOME LOYALIST HACKLES

1. ULSTER MP FROM SOUTH DOWN ENOCH POWELL STIRRED CONTROVERSY IN SPEECH APRIL 22 TO CONSTITUENTS AT BANBRIDGE. IN ESSENCE POWELL CLAIMED UNION IN LESS DANGER AND MORE SECURE THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1968, THAT HOUSE OF COMMONS STILL BEATING HEART OF POLITICAL BRITAIN AND THAT NORTHERN IRELAND REPRESENTATIVES FOR FIRST TIME IN FIFTY YEARS NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF COMMONS. "WE ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF PARLIAMENT BECAUSE ULSTER IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM". SO FAR SO GOOD BUT MR. POWELL CONTINUED TO DEVELOP HIS THEME ALONG THE LINES THAT THE ONLY LASTING GUARANTEE OF SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS IN SINGLE AND UNITED REPRESENTATION AND IN SINGLE LEADERSHIP IN PARLIAMENT AND IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IN THIS CONNECTION HE DECLARED UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) DEFUNCT FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF CRAIG VANGUARD PARTY AND CASTIGATED "CRUDE AND OBJECTIONABLE UTTERANCES" BY THOSE INDIVIDUALS "MASQUERADING" AS UNITED ULSTER UNIONISTS WHICH UNDERMINE ULSTER POLITICAL POSITION IN PARLIAMENT AND IN U.K.

2. POWELL' S ALLUSION CLEARLY TO UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT AND TO ITS LEADER ERNEST BAIRD. FIRST TO REACT
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HOWEVER WAS REVEREND WILLIAM BEATTY OF DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS

WHO DECLARED UUUC ALIVE AND WELL AND SUGGESTED THAT
COALITION SHOULD WITHDRAW ENDORSEMENT OF POWELL FOR REELECTION.

3. ENOCH POWELL IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO BY ULSTER PEOPLE AS
"THE ENGLISHMAN". HIS CONSISTENT REITERATION OF THE THEME
THAT ALL POLITICAL EXPRESSION SHOULD BE THROUGH THE COMMONS
ALBEIT IMPECCABLY REASONED AND DELIVERED BEWILDERS MOST
AUDIENCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THESE AUDIENCES HAVE BEEN
CONDITIONED BY HISTORY AND BY MOST LOYALIST
POLITICIANS TO CHERISH DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT. IN
SLAMMING BAIRD HOWEVER, POWELL MAY HAVE THE TACIT APPROVAL
OF MODERATE OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WHO HAVE DEEP MISGIVINGS ABOUT
EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL OPPOSITION TO DIRECT RULE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORM OF GOVERNMENT, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760158-0834
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760424/aaaaatns.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENOCH POWELL RAISES SOME LOYALIST HACKLES
TAGS: PINT, UK, (POWELL, ENOCH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006